

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. Canceled

2. (New) A method for dynamically performing tasks at runtime during the execution of an executable computer program, the method comprising:

determining whether there is a period which the level of activity associated with execution of the executable computer program is below a threshold level;

selecting a first task from a plurality of tasks which can be performed during the execution of the executable computer program when the determining determines that there is a period which the level of activity associated with execution of the executable computer program is below a threshold level; and

initializing performance of the first task during the first period after the selecting of the first task.

3. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether an interrupt is received by the executable computer program after the initialization of the performance of the first task; and

continuing the performance of the first task for a predetermined period of time when it is determined that an interrupt has been received.

4. (New) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether the performance of the first task is completed after the predetermined period of time; and

aborting the performance of the first task when it is determined that the first task is not completed after the predetermined period of time.

5. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether the first task is a first method;

determining whether the first method is compiled when it is determined that the first task is the first method, wherein the determination of whether the first method is compiled is made during the period of low activity;

initializing a compilation of the first method during the period when it is determined that the first method is not compiled; and

initializing a completion of the first task during the period when it is determined that the first task is not the first method.

6. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of tasks is referenced in a first list associated with the executable computer program and the first task is a highest priority task for performance associated with the first list.

7. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the executable computer program is compliant with the Java programming language.

8. (New) A virtual machine for dynamically performing tasks at runtime during the execution of an executable computer program by the virtual machine, wherein the virtual machine is capable of:

determining whether there is a period which the level of activity associated with execution of the executable computer program is below a threshold level;

selecting a first task from a plurality of tasks which can be performed during the execution of the executable computer program when the determining determines that there is a period which the level of activity associated with execution of the executable computer program is below a threshold level; and

initializing performance of the first task during the first period after the selecting of the first task.

9. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of tasks is referenced in a first list associated with the executable computer program and the first task is a highest priority task for performance associated with the first list.

10. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 8,

wherein a first set of tasks selected from the plurality of tasks is associated with a first list and a second set of tasks selected from the plurality of tasks is associated with a second list, the first list being created during the processing of the executable computer program the second list being created before the processing of the executable computer program, and

wherein identifying the first task includes:

selecting the first task as a highest priority task from the first list.

11. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 8, wherein said virtual machine is further capable of:

determining whether an interrupt is received by the executable computer program after the initialization of the performance of the first task; and

continuing the performance of the first task for a predetermined period of time when it is determined that an interrupt has been received.

12. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 11, wherein said virtual machine is further capable of:

determining whether the performance of the first task is completed after the predetermined period of time; and

aborting the performance of the first task when it is determined that the first task is not completed after the predetermined period of time.

13. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 8, wherein said virtual machine is further capable of:

determining whether the first task is a first method;

determining whether the first method is compiled when it is determined that the first task is the first method, wherein the determination of whether the first method is compiled is made during the period of low activity;

initializing a compilation of the first method during the period when it is determined that the first method is not compiled; and

initializing a completion of the first task during the period when it is determined that the first task is not the first method.

14. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 8, wherein the first task is compilation of a first method.

15. (New) A virtual machine as recited in claim 8, wherein the virtual machine is a Java complaint virtual machine.

16. (New) A computer readable medium including computer program code for dynamically performing tasks at runtime during the execution of an executable computer program, wherein the readable medium comprises:

computer program code for determining whether there is a period which the level of activity associated with execution of the executable computer program is below a threshold level;

computer program code for selecting a first task form a plurality of tasks which can be performed during the execution of the executable computer program when the determining determines that there is a period which the level of activity associated with execution of the executable computer program is below a threshold level; and

computer program code for initializing performance of the first task during the first period after the selecting of the first task.

17. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for determining whether an interrupt is received by the executable computer program after the initialization of the performance of the first task; and

computer program code for continuing the performance of the first task for a predetermined period of time when it is determined that an interrupt has been received.

18. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for determining whether an interrupt is received by the executable computer program after the initialization of the performance of the first task; and

computer program code for continuing the performance of the first task for a predetermined period of time when it is determined that an interrupt has been received.

19. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for determining whether the performance of the first task is completed after the predetermined period of time; and

computer program code for aborting the performance of the first task when it is determined that the first task is not completed after the predetermined period of time.

20. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for determining whether the first task is a first method;

computer program code for determining whether the first method is compiled when it is determined that the first task is the first method, wherein the determination of whether the first method is compiled is made during the period of low activity;

computer program code for initializing a compilation of the first method during the period when it is determined that the first method is not compiled; and

computer program code for initializing a completion of the first task during the period when it is determined that the first task is not the first method.

21. (New) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the executable computer program is compliant with the Java programming language.